

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

- ▶ Alabama due for disaster relief following Hurricane Danny. — Page 2
- ▶ Leader of BWA women's organizations resigns. — Page 2
- ▶ Families not that much different than those 50 years ago, comparison shows. — Page 3
- ▶ NBC lone holdout among networks on new ratings system. — Page 3
- ▶ Readers voice opinions over Disney boycott. — Page 4
- ▶ Feature examines 100th anniversary of Zionist movement. — Pages 6-7
- ▶ Nashville church tackles both domestic and international missions projects this summer. — Page 8
- ▶ Englewood supports Union effort. — Page 10

MOVING? Cut out and mail address label and new address to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024

Costa Rica missionary gets 'OJT' in Tennessee

By Lonnie Wilkey & Betty Poor
For *Baptist and Reflector*

NEWPORT — Costa Rica's first foreign missionary is getting some "OJT" (on the job training) this summer in Tennessee.

Anne Marie Pinnock, a former fashion model, born in English-speaking Limon on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, has been serving as a camp missionary for Girls in Action camps at Linden and Carson this summer.

When Pinnock finishes her "overseas" assignment in Tennessee, she will return to Costa Rica to be commissioned as a missionary.

Pinnock originally was scheduled to serve in Guyana on the northern coast of South America, but plans have changed and she is waiting on a new assignment, either in Peru, Panama, or the Dominican Republic. She will be supported by Costa Rican Baptists, the Brazilian Baptist mission board, and her home church, San Pedro Baptist.

Wherever she ends up, Pin-

nock will work with Brazilian missionaries. The Brazilian Baptist mission board will pay one-third of her support.

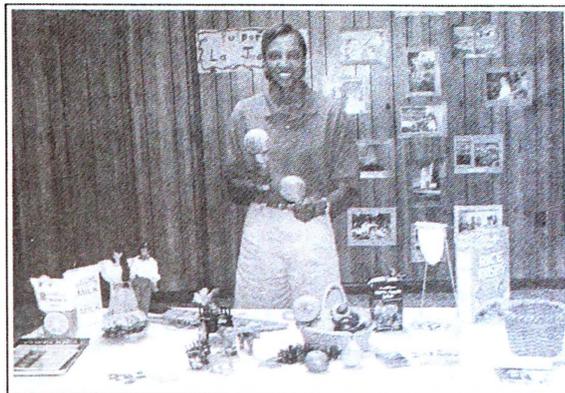
Pinnock's move to the mission field was not her first career choice.

"When I finished high school, I looked for a career that would bring me a lot of money and make me famous," she said. Pinnock became a model, but found that fame and money did not fill the vacuum in her heart. It was then that she turned to Christ.

Ironically, Pinnock, who is working with Tennessee WMU's GA camps this summer, began her own spiritual pilgrimage in a Christian camp when she was 21 years old.

A friend invited her to camp. "I was searching for something that would fill the emptiness in my heart," she recalled.

"I saw something different in the people I met at the camp. In some way I knew what they had was what I needed — what was lacking in my life. So I accepted the Lord in a short time."



ANNE MARIE PINNOCK displays items from Costa Rica which she has used to introduce Tennessee GAs at Camps Carson and Linden this summer to her native country.

Pinnock became a member of San Pedro Church in Costa Rica.

"I began to serve God with what I knew how to do — dust the pews and help with the children in the nursery. Then the Lord began to lead me to serve him in other ways. I didn't know how to do anything — like sing or play an instrument — much less lead a

Bible study.

"But I heard a call in my heart and I couldn't resist it. I had to answer 'Here am I, send me.'"

Pinnock learned to play the guitar and piano and to sing. She felt the need for more preparation so she attended the Baptist Theological Seminary in Costa Rica.

— See Costa Rica, page 10

Ball Camp Church recalls 200 years of history

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Ball Camp Church has 200 years of history to celebrate, and church members are taking an entire year to remember.

Beginning in January of this year, each

month they have emphasized different relationships and eras of growth. Dramatization of the church's beginning was staged on Jan. 12, and pastors were remembered and honored in April.

The church has had three names, and it was first mentioned in the August 1797 minutes of the Holston Association. The

church was first called Beaver Ridge, changing to Brick Chapel in 1854. Since 1887, it has been Ball Camp as the church adopted the community name, which came from a local camp owned by Nicholas Ball, a Virginia soldier of the American Revolution who settled near Knoxville. The story — See Ball Camp, page 2



A WOODEN PEG from the first church building is admired by Anita Bridges and Pastor Bill Daniel, photo at left. Above, members of anniversary committee, from left: Anita and Leamon Bridges, Bob and Brenda Chambers, and Daniel. Other committee members include Kay Gardner, Libby Parker, Lucy Tenpenny, and Mary Martin. A display included a pulpit that was used at Ball Camp from 1877 to 1960.

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Magazine polls readers on boycott

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A vote by toll-free telephone numbers, the Internet, and the U.S. mail on whether The Disney Company should be boycotted was initiated by *USA Weekend* magazine in its July 18-20 issue. "Everyone has an opinion about the Southern Baptist boycott of gay-friendly Disney," the magazine stated. "What's yours?" Results of the poll will be announced in the magazine's Aug. 22-24 issue.

To vote by telephone in favor of a Disney boycott, for example, dial 1-800-446-8405; against, 1-800-446-8406. The first 100,000 calls will be tallied; the lines will be open through midnight July 24. Votes also can be registered by mailing a postcard to Disney Boycott, *USA Weekend*, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22229. ■

Alabama needs relief help

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptists will be called on to help with mud-out and, possibly, feeding units in the wake of Hurricane Danny, said Mickey Caison, adult volunteer mobilization associate with the North American Mission Board.

Now downgraded to Tropical Storm Danny, the storm dumped several feet of rain on

the Alabama coast over the July 18 weekend.

"It's still too early to tell exactly what teams will be needed in southern Alabama," Caison said. "Most of our relief efforts will be as a result of the rains and flooding, and not because of the high winds," he observed.

Caison said a feeding unit could be dispatched to Dolphin Island. A decision was to have been made by July 22. ■

Denominations show modest growth, declines in '96

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK — Denominations in the United States generally experienced either modest growth or decline last year, according to the 1997 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.

"Denominations like the Southern Baptist Convention which have experienced growth over the last decade continued to grow. However, they grew at a more mod-

est rate than in many past years," wrote editors of the annual compilation of statistical data by the National Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Overall, U.S. church membership increased by about a quarter million members. Most of that growth was accounted for by three groups: Mormons, Catholics, and Southern Baptists.

Mormons, the seventh largest faith group in the U.S., grew more than any

other religious group last year with an increase of 98,400 members or 2.39 percent. They were followed by Roman Catholics, 89,849 new members (.15 percent) and the Southern Baptist Convention, 49,236 (.32 percent).

The Roman Catholic Church is the largest faith denomination with 60.2 million members, followed by the SBC, 15.6 million, and the United Methodist Church, 8.5 million. ■

BWA's Pierce resigns

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A joint statement addressing the end of Willene Pierce's employment as executive director of the Baptist World Alliance's women's department has been issued by the department's eight-member executive committee and Pierce.

The statement, read to Baptist Press by Pierce July 15, noted that Pierce, 54, had resigned from the position she has held since 1995, opposed to "prematuring reports of her firing."

A BWA news story from its general council meeting July 3-9 in Vancouver, British Columbia, had stated Pierce was fired by the women's department executive committee.

The women's department is a separately incorporated auxiliary to BWA. Its executive committee consists of the department's director, Mercy Jayaraja Rao of India; the secretary-treasurer; and six continental vice presidents.

Pierce's resignation, effective July 14, resulted from "differing perspectives regarding ministry philosophy and leadership style," the statement said. It added, "Any further comment regarding the nature and substance of these differences would dissuade the women's department ministry, the individuals involved, and the cause of Christ."

Pierce was executive director of Maryland/Delaware's WMU from 1982-95. ■



Stoneway Acres gets endowment fund

The directors of Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons, Inc. (BHEP) has voted to establish an endowment fund for Stoneway Acres with a gift of \$5,000 to be invested by the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. BHEP founded Stoneway Acres, which consists of two group homes for mentally handicapped men in Lebanon. Stoneway Acres is now owned and operated by Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. Shown with W.L. Childs Jr., left, TBF president, is Joy Nabi, center, president of BHEP and Mike Overcash, treasurer of BHEP. For more information about the endowment fund, contact Childs at (615) 371-2029.

Ball Camp Church recalls 200 years ...

— Continued from page 1
is told that Ball was killed by Indians. Unfortunately, all church records prior to 1818 are unknown. In more recent history, the church became a charter member of the Tennessee Baptist Association which later became known as Knox County Association.

The church's first meeting place was used by other denominations and as a public school.

The second church building, like the first, was built from logs on the present site.

The third building was brick, built in 1839 and was damaged during the Civil War. It was replaced by a white clapboard building in 1877,

and was used until 1960 when the present sanctuary was constructed. Other buildings for church use were built also through the years.

Ball Camp mission teams have ministered in Ivory Coast, Chile, Bolivia, and the Czech Republic.

Daniel says church membership has doubled to more than 1,100 in the past 25 years.

During this bicentennial year, the church, week by week, has been "Celebrating 200 Years in Ministry," demonstrating ministries of the past leading up to the present.

An Anniversary Celebration Committee has led the congregation to observe different em-

phases each month:

January was dedicated to the early days of the church body. February continued that emphasis, leading into a discussion on the church's proposed master plan for future development. Other monthly focuses include every phase of church life, including organizations, membership, missions, ministries in-house, a history media presentation, outreach and inreach, and a look at the future with Vision 2000.

"Ball Camp's members have faithfully shared the good news about Christ with hundreds of people during the 200 years. The people have worked together faithfully."

The anniversary committee has promoted each emphasis with a centrally located display so that members and visitors can see history even as it is celebrated.

The master plan for the future was developed by a building project committee a year ago and approved by the church Feb. 23 this year.

The plan addresses additional parking space, library-conference center, education space, a new sanctuary, and possibly a family life center.

Daniel currently is working on a history of the last 25 years. Mary Freels Martin wrote the history for the 175th anniversary in 1972. *B&R*

Family life has changed little, 50-year comparison shows

By Marv Knox
For Associated Baptist Press

PRINCETON, N.J. — The decline of America's families might not be as severe as usually reported, according to an analysis of Gallup polls.

The Gallup organization compared a new poll to surveys conducted 30 and 50 years ago and discovered several essential elements of home life hardly have changed, Gallup's Princeton Religion Research Center reported in the latest issue of *Emerging Trends* newsletter.

"Despite a great deal of discussion about the sexual revolution and the loss of family stability in America today, ... a number of basic aspects of child rearing have changed very little over the years," wrote Frank Newport, editor-in-chief of the Gallup Poll. Some changes have actually enhanced families, the study says. For example:

- ▶ Parents pay more attention. About 60 percent of today's parents say they spend more time with their children than their parents spent with them, the survey found. Only 20 percent say they spend less time with their kids than their parents spent with them. "This is the case despite media emphasis of alleged time starvation in today's households, particularly ones in which the mother works outside the home," Newport observed.
- ▶ Families still eat together. In the latest poll, more than 70 percent of parents whose children are under age 18 say their family eats together at least five days a week. More than one-third say their family eats dinner together every day of the week.
- ▶ Piety is a priority. About 66 percent of families today

claim to "say grace or give thanks to God aloud before their meals," the survey found. Fifty years ago, only 43 percent of families said they prayed before meals.

- ▶ Mom's most influential.

When asked which parent influences children the most, Americans with kids picked the mother, by almost a 3-to-1 margin. In addition, adults today choose their mothers over their fathers as their primary influence, by about a 2-to-1 margin.

"These findings are only slightly different from Gallup's findings almost 50 years ago, in 1951," Newport reported.

- ▶ Discipline is in demand.

"Americans today come down strongly in favor of strict disciplinary standards for children," Newport said.

Sixty-five percent of Americans today approve of spanking children, down only slightly from the 74 percent who

avored spanking in 1946.

About 75 percent of Americans today say grade-school children "should be taught to address adult men as 'sir.'" That number is an increase over the prevailing opinion in a 1952 study.

Other findings indicate that Americans say they would rather have a boy than a girl if they could choose the gender of their next child, a factor that hasn't changed in 50 years, the analysis confirmed.

Also, "despite discussion about the loss of the American dream and opportunities to get ahead in this country today, significant majorities of both men and women say that their sons and daughters will have a better chance of succeeding than they themselves had when they grew up," Newport said.

The latest survey was based upon a randomly selected national sample of 1,036 adults. Results have a margin of error of five percentage points. ■



True Love Waits leader:

'God still has a plan for the lives of teenagers who mess up'

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Despite the positive impact of the widely publicized teenage sexual abstinence campaign "True Love Waits," even those teenagers who have signed pledge cards can and do fail sexually, Richard Ross says.

Ross, whose youth group at Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, began the movement in 1993, told youth leaders at the National Conference for Church Leadership that not all who make the pledge keep it.

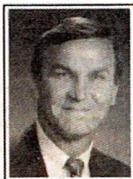
The commitment is shaping the behavior of thousands of teenagers, Ross said, and the vast majority who have signed pledges are living very different

lives from some of their peers.

"We really do have lots of people reaching marriage who have successfully kept their commitments," he said.

But national statistics on teenage pregnancies and abortions, though improved for the first time in 20 years, indicate 1.1 million teenage girls get pregnant each year, Ross said.

"If it were not for the fact that pregnant girls tend to drop out of church or quietly have abortions, we would see pregnant girls in our youth groups often."



ROSS

Ross said True Love Waits was never presented as a virginity campaign because "we want young people who have made serious mistakes in their lives to be welcome to pledge abstinence 'from this day forward until my marriage.' We want to accept young people who have found God's forgiveness."

He said youth ministers who discover that youth in their church have engaged in sexual activity should take several steps in counseling them.

"First, lead teenagers to clarify their salvation. Without that knowledge, how else do you know how to proceed in the conversation? In the pain and grief of failure, they may realize they never committed their

heart and life to Jesus Christ," he said.

Next, help them acknowledge the reality of their sin, he suggested.

"We don't need to beat them up, because they are already suffering emotionally, but be sure they understand what they have done is breaking God's law. They may be sorry they have been caught or that you know or that their parents know. But they need to accept responsibility, not to make them feel worse but so they can experience forgiveness when they admit to sin," Ross said.

Third, he suggested, talk with them about finding God's forgiveness and then lead them to think of others of whom they should ask forgiveness. These probably

will include parents, their partner, and friends who may know what has happened. ..."

"Bring up the issue of a pregnancy test," Ross said, "as well as the possibility of a test for sexually transmitted diseases."

And finally, guide the teenager to make a new promise of purity to God.

"Be Jesus in their lives," Ross told youth ministers.

"Jesus was as clear-cut as he could be about morality. As he dealt with people who had failed sexually, always his goal was restoration.

"God still has a plan for the lives of teenagers who mess up. If we can help them find his forgiveness and healing, we can get them back on track to find his will for their lives." ■

TV industry, except NBC, agrees to revise ratings

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The television industry, minus one network, has agreed to revise its six-month-old ratings system to include new symbols to warn viewers about programs that include sex, violence, and offensive language.

The cable and broadcast networks, except for NBC, have committed to use letters at the start of programs to denote specific content. The new ratings will be S for sexual depictions, V for violence, L for foul language, and D for suggestive dialogue. The new system will go into effect Oct. 1. *The Washington Post* reported July 10.

The agreement worked out by TV industry leaders in discussions with child advocacy and parents organizations, as well as

members of Congress, was announced officially July 10 at the White House.

The new symbols will be added to the oft-criticized, age-based ones in effect since January. The criticism of the current ratings system has been its failure to provide parents with specific information in choosing programs suitable for viewing. The system uses TV-G, TV-PG, TV-14, and TV-M, much like the movie industry uses G, PG, PG-13, and R in its ratings. Currently a rating appears in the upper left corner of the picture frame for the first 15 seconds of a program. The revised system will use larger symbols, *The Post* reported.

Under the revised system, a TV program such as the controversial "NYPD Blue" could carry a TV-14-SVLD rating.

The new system will include an additional symbol, FV, for children's programs that include "fantasy violence," *The Post* reported.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, praised the agreement and called the new system "much-improved and much more informative."

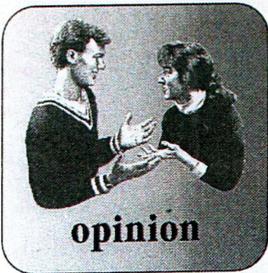
"This is not about censorship," Land continued. "It's about giving parents the information they need to make informed decisions about the programs their children watch on television. ..."

Those who desire that NBC join their fellow networks and use the new ratings may write: Robert Wright, President/CEO, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10112. ■



Church pays off mortgage

New Union Church, Medon, voted to rebuild when the building burned a decade ago. On June 29 the church celebrated the loan repayment by burning the note. The \$170,000 loan was paid off in 10 years. Participants, from left, are Muriel Sparr, Bobby Jones, interim pastor Orville McMahon, and George Tims. Danny Moss was pastor during the rebuilding program.



opinion

about letters to the editor

- > Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length and wording.
> Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
> Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
> Send original copy. Form letters and 'open' letters will not be published.
> Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
> If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
> Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the Baptist and Reflector and its staff.

Partnership Prayer Requests July

- 23 — Pray for the mother of Sharon Reid, a member of Gateway Church in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, who is very ill and a diagnosis has not been determined.
24 — Praise God that Henry Blackaby visited Costa Rica last month to share with the nationals and the missionaries.
25 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Pastor/Staff and Spouse Retreat to be held Aug. 11-14.
26 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Youth Super Summer to be held Aug. 22-23.
27 — Pray for pastor Julio Ruiz and family who arrived July 4 in Canada where he will serve as pastor of a Spanish congregation in Delta, British Columbia.
28 — Pray for missionary Nancy Buttemere as she works with the deaf at Fernando Centeno Guell School in Costa Rica. Ask God that many people would come to know Jesus as a result of her ministry and witness.
29 — Pray for Joe McIntyre and the team from Poplar Heights Church, Jackson, who will travel in August to Poland to build an educational space for Gdansk Church.

Would Jesus?

I have been thinking. If Jesus were here in bodily form, making his way across our country, I believe he would visit Disneyland — not because of the gay element, nor because the SBC says "don't," but because he is God's love gift to all people.

During Jesus' earthly ministry God's redemptive love compelled him to go to people who were living in adultery, lepers, the crippled, blind, and sick, tax collectors, the rich and the poor, and the demon possessed. Jesus' mission field is still the world and includes everyone. Jesus carried out his mission, even to the cross, with the Pharisees' constant scrutiny and accusations.

How long must we hear so much about being theologically correct and morally straight when neither can be achieved without being saved by God's grace?

John 3:17 says, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved."

Erline Burchyett Nashville 37211

No apology

Typically, responses to the Disney resolution follow a similar line: Southern Baptists have acted self-righteously. Some suggest we should be more forgiving and enter into a dialogue with Disney. Disney executives have not sought our counsel in making their decisions. Perhaps a forceful statement of our position is the best place from which to begin a productive dialogue. Family values are not the main priority with Disney; money is the driving force in its corporate decisions.

One letter writer to the Baptist and Reflector suggest-

ed the resolution was so offensive to the unchurched we'll be unable to reach them. Are we to condition all our decisions on the basis they not anger the unchurched? I would rather our denomination state its positions than take the "non-judgmental" tone of some other major denominations.

The confusion of several mainline denominations over issues such as homosexuality is telling. Political correctness has ruined their witness, as evidenced by their continuing membership declines. Dialogue is not a bad thing. Yet, entering into dialogue with those whose lifestyles conflict with the demands of Scripture and the compromise which sometimes follows is a first step taken to denominational decline. Biblical ethics are non-negotiable.

I would not want Disney, any of its affiliate companies, nor any other social institution to be confused about the ethical standards of the Southern Baptist Convention. We need not apologize to anyone for the decision taken by our messengers in Dallas.

Edmond Long, pastor Westview Church Chattanooga 37421

Saddened

It saddens me to know the only thing that will be remembered about the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention is that we boycotted Disney.

I also find it ironic that we call the Mormons a cult when they are giving away Bibles and we (Southern Baptists) are boycotting "Mickey Mouse." What is wrong with this picture?

We (Southern Baptists) should concentrate our efforts on spreading and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If the lifestyle of more Christians reflected the life and values of

Jesus, people would not be searching for and accepting this sinful style of living.

In short, we should follow the Mormon example and spread the Word of God instead of boycotting "Mickey."

Wade Campbell Woodbury 37190

Needs correcting

I believe this year's Vacation Bible School curriculum package published by the Baptist Sunday School Board is evidence of a problem. I see excessive worldliness and shallowness of our doctrine and practice. The VBS material, which has a rodeo-western theme, may have been produced with the best of motives, but I don't agree. The sovereignty and glory of God seem to have taken a back seat to relevance and entertainment.

Though the curriculum certainly contains Bible study material, the content is nearly choked out by the flashy theme. Take this example from the Adult VBS teacher's book (Ranch Foreman's Guide in BSSB lingo): In a monologue meant to be read by the teacher, Jesus is described as a champion who "hails from the Eternal City. He's competed in all the rodeo events. He's mastered every bull in the rodeo, ridden every wild bronc, milked every wild cow, and roped every calf" (page 15). Is sacrilege too strong a word for this? If the Gospel needs this sort of dressing, we are in big trouble.

A renewal of the historic Baptist doctrines of God's sovereign grace would clean up this sort of nonsense. Let us turn from a pathetic man-centered view which makes Jesus a cowboy to be applauded, to a God-centered view where he is Lord and we fall down before him. The only "theme" we need is that of Christ and him cruci-

fied. Let us abandon approaches that detract from his holiness and the power of God's Holy Word.

Brad Isbell Oliver Springs 37840

A Christian life

Biographies are favorite books with many people who like to read, including myself. I especially enjoy those written about my generation, as I can relate to many of the things they write about.

Sometimes I start one and find it is not the kind of reading I enjoy and I want to stop reading and often do stop. However, there are other times when I continue reading hoping to find something of a different nature before the end of the book.

One I read recently (about an actor) had particularly bad language and I would stop and then pick it up again hoping for a change. Following are some of the things I found at the end of the book.

"What was your most important acting experience?"

"When I learned to become the character — not acting, being."

"Theatre is of the observed and the observer."

"Pay attention to your intention. In other words, what are you up there for? What are you trying to get across?"

As I read these lines my thoughts went to the life of a Christian. A Christian's life is a portrait to others about God.

The Bible itself is a biography of God. There are many lives entwined in the story and one never gets tired of reading this most wonderful Book. Of course, the Holy Spirit makes this book different from any other, as one cannot read it and understand it without the help of the Spirit.

Dorothy Blake Alcoa 37701

Not everyone can play the infield in the game of life

Abner Doubleday, who is given credit for inventing the game of baseball, did youth league coaches a disservice when he devised the makeup of this grand ole game.

Life would have been much simpler for all of us coaches if he had decided to have seven infielders, instead of four infielders and three outfielders.

But, at that time he did not have to deal with all those parents who think Little Johnny should be the team's shortstop or third baseman. The problem is Little Johnny, in many cases, simply doesn't have the talent required to play the infield. Or, while he may have some talent, there is someone on the team more talented. That's a hard concept for some of us to realize — that someone may actually be a better player than our own child.

As a coach I try to encourage everyone

an occasional word by Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

to do his or her best, no matter where they play.

I have tried to stress to my players and parents that every position is important. Believe me, there have been thousands of baseball games lost because a routine fly ball failed to land in someone's glove.

Somewhere along the way children and parents have gotten the idea that the outfield is not important. Wonder what Hall of Famers Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, and Mickey Mantle would think of that concept? Or how about today's super stars such as Barry Bonds, Ken Griffey Jr., and others who made millions of dollars each year to chase and catch fly balls?

As I look back over the just completed Dixie Youth season, I have mixed emo-

tions. On one hand, we won more games than last year and showed considerable improvement. On the other hand, it seemed some parents had unreasonable expectations, not only on me as coach, but also of their children.

The sad thing is that children are the ones who suffer. Through parents' actions and attitudes they're leading their children to think the world should cater to their wants and wishes. Sooner or later those children will discover the shocking reality of life — that you don't always get what you want.

These children will discover that the best jobs or the big promotions do not always go to the most qualified people.

Does that mean we pout or quit? No, it means we simply work and try harder. Who knows? Maybe some day we all can play the infield. ■

Is your religious practice protected?

Religious freedom's safety net has been swatted down by the United States Supreme Court.

In a perplexing ruling, the nation's highest court overturned the Religious Freedom Restoration Act passed by Congress in 1993. Never mind RFRA was passed almost unanimously, and never mind Congress' intent was to protect religious freedom for all of us.

The ruling left many religious leaders dismayed but not speechless. Reaction was swift and strong.

The court said that Congress wrongfully usurped power of federal courts when it passed RFRA. In another ruling, the Court struck down an attempt by Congress to bar pornography and smut from cyberspace.

If you can believe it, the justices ruled that legislative efforts to keep children from finding sexually explicit material in cyberspace was too broad and violated freedom of speech for adults.

Religious leaders across the United States agreed in their protests to the RFRA ruling. Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, SBC, called it a shameful decision. And he said, "Our free exercise rights as American citizens are in peril." Land went on to say the ruling is "the worst religious liberty decision of the last 50 years." He's right.

Leaders of several religious groups had worked long and hard with Congress to craft a law that would be workable, and not violate rights or rulings.

It is a keen disappointment. Especially since the Court winked at the current adult use of cyberspace to pandering their pornography and make it available to children as well.

James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said "the First Amendment has just been gutted by the Supreme Court." He is right too.

Rita Woltz, legal coordinator for the Rutherford Institute, said that America is on the verge of "true religious apartheid."

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor

RFRA was enacted by Congress to counteract the Court's declaration that said generally applied laws that are neutral do not violate the First Amendment even if they happen to infringe on some citizens' religious practice.

In addition, in another ruling, the Court nullified a federal appeals court decision that tithes given to a church cannot be seized to pay the debts of a couple who later declared bankruptcy.

Leaders who worked so diligently and confidently for RFRA are justifiably irate at the Court's ruling. Chairman of the coalition is Oliver "Buzz" Thomas, a Tennessee Baptist attorney from Maryville. We must remember that it was the Court that made necessary the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Some called the Court's decision a devastating blow to religious communities. Many called RFRA a crowning achievement for religious freedom. But the Court said that religious pluralism was a "luxury the nation could no longer afford." In other words, the Court said that if religious groups wanted to be pro-

ected by the principle that government would have to first establish a compelling interest, they would have to win the protection in the political process.

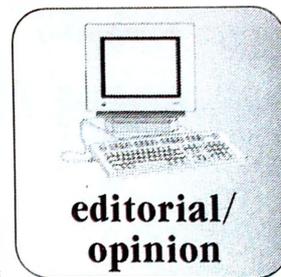
The Court also said that RFRA shows "considerable Congressional intrusion." That means that religious freedom has no protection under federal law unless *blatant* discrimination is intended.

There would be less uproar about this awful Court decision if RFRA had been put together by a one-sided group. But there was broad consensus from the religious community — not to mention the cooperation, give-and-take, that produced the product.

If you are interested, the 6-3 vote that killed RFRA reads like this: Against RFRA — Rehnquist, Kennedy, Stevens, Thomas, Ginsburg, and Scalia. For RFRA — O'Connor, Souter, and Breyer.

The strategists who worked for RFRA are making critical decisions even now. Only state governments are involved in the decision, so state legislatures will have to be involved in new strategy.

Firm action must be taken now to guarantee a strong protective measure for religious practice. According to Oliver Thomas, a constitutional amendment would take years to approve. Congress should assist in finding an effective legal answer that will meet the Court's approval. This defeat, as bad as it is, must be overcome. **B&R**



Just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile



WOOD

Wife to husband: "That little chocolate bar recommended for an appetizer was delicious. How did you like yours?"

Husband to wife: "That was excellent, honey. Pass me a couple more."

Take this truth

Sometimes we can become more interested in the parade that precedes the circus than we are the circus itself.

To put it another way, we can be forever preparing for the event and never be willing to tackle the work. This could be called escapism. Though we may enjoy the parade, we shouldn't fail to participate in the main event.

Memorize this Scripture

Having a form of godliness but denying the power ... Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth — II Timothy 3:5, 7.

Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to face life rather than spend my time fantasizing about what I want to do *someday*. ■

Can peace really be 'just around the corner'?

one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Other restaurants may have been more elegant or some may have owned a better reputation, but this one was unique.

It was different.

The Mar Elias Restaurant is situated on the Hebron Road, adjacent to the Mar Elias Monastery.

We drove into the delightful rest stop at mid-afternoon, seven of us.

Five thirsty journalists — a hospitable guide and a more than able driver — we welcomed the respite.

Inside, it was cool. And each of the great walls were covered with murals of scenes straight out of the Bible.

The drinks refreshed us and the sweet cakes were delicious. After we'd rested, we admired the murals and successfully identified them.

The manager took us next door and showed us the quaint, immaculate, house of worship. The quiet and calm almost made us forget the noisy Hebron road out-

side and the clank and roar of the cumbersome earthmovers just down the road.

Thus refreshed, we climbed into the van again and reminded ourselves that prior to our visit to the Mar Elias, we had toured the hillside where the earthmovers were at work.

The place was beguiling, and we knew it. There was no other presence, just us and the big machines.

We fancied we heard the jostling crowd as they debated the future construction on the side. It was disputed territory. Arabs said no. Jewish leaders said yes, houses and apartments for Jewish people will be built there.

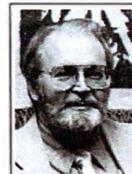
It was just one of the sticky-point places that can hold up peace negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Now, as we looked back at Mar Elias and at the hillside where houses are sure to be, one of our troop pointed to a pleasant place just in front of the restaurant where a famous artist looked across the hills and valleys and painted his portrait of Christ and the World.

Is this the rock-ribbed hillside called Jabal Abu Ghneim, the sector of Jerusalem they want for a future Palestinian capital? Is this the bulldozed Har Homa where a Jewish neighborhood is planned?

It seems real folly that a place so near the quietude of Mar Elias and its environs could cause such heated arguments.

We drove away, down the dusty road. On a curve we could almost see Bethlehem. Then we were back at the King David Hotel. To rest and think. Did I really hear a voice saying, "Blessed are the peacemakers, called sons of God"? ■



ALLEN

It's all in the living — choosing acceptance or apathy

families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

In Romans 8:28, Paul wrote, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Many motivational conferences and book have quoted the following story from an unknown source:

There was a poor man who supported his family by farming. One day, the man's only horse ran away. When his neighbor heard the news, he said, "Oh how unfortunate you are."

The poor man replied, "Maybe."

A few days later, the lost horse returned, leading a large number of wild horses into the corral. As the rickety gate was closed after them, the neighbor hurried to greet the poor man. "How lucky

you are," he shouted jubilantly.

The poor man replied, "Maybe."

Weeks later while the poor man's son was breaking in one of the new horses, the teenager was thrown by the horse, fracturing his leg. "Such a tragedy," the neighbor lamented.

The poor man answered, "Maybe."

When some months passed, a war broke out in the poor man's country. Soldiers searched farms to draft young men needed for the king's army to fight the enemy. Because of the boy's injured leg, he was exempted from the draft and, unlike his friends, he was not required to join the

army. "How fortunate," exclaimed the neighbor.

"Maybe," said the poor farmer.

The story is used to point out that in human development, outlook determines the outcome. Often the way we perceive our circumstance predicts the way we perform.

It is important that Christians understand that God is in control and he is always interested and involved in the individual lives of his children in order to bring about the best. It's good to remember I Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation has seized you except that what is common to man. God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But he will give you a way to escape." ■

Tracking Herzl, Zionism's birth at 100th

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

August 1997 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Zionism, the Jewish homeland idea. Since that day, Jewish people from everywhere have participated in making that idea come alive. I was one of five journalists invited to follow the track of those early dreamers. Here is part of that story. — Editor

BASEL, Switzerland — It's been 100 years since it happened, but this cosmopolitan city is where it started.

It was here, in the Stadt Hall that Theodor Herzl and some 200 delegates held the first conference on Zionism — and proclaimed the right of all Jewish people to have their own homeland. It was August 1897.

Perhaps it's fitting. Today you can stand on the banks of the Rhine River — and touch Switzerland, France, and Germany. A giant pylon marking the international convergence soars to a sky that covers all three nations.

Like that blue umbrella of a sky, Zionism touches most, if not all, of the peoples of the world.

It could be that Herzl's idea for a Jewish homeland was an idea whose time had come. Believe it or not, it was not easy. His idea had opposition from a host of rabbis and other Jewish leaders who believed in Jewish assimilation into cultures around the world rather than a homeland which would be difficult to gain and maintain.

For hundreds of years Jews had been scattered across the globe after most of them had been chased out of the Holy Land in about 70 A. D.

Persecution and/or assimilation into other cultures was a constant reality and sometimes a threat. Jews, it seemed, were always living in someone else's land and with the eventual risk of being pushed out.

What's Zionism?

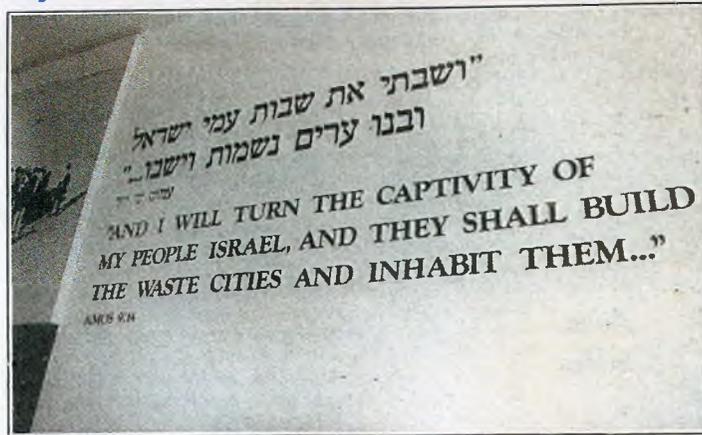
Who was Herzl?

Why Basel?

How does this relate to Southern Baptists and other evangelical Christian groups?

How does that 1897 meeting affect the rest of the world?

Good questions — and we will try to find some answers, and discuss other discoveries as well.



AN INDEPENDENCE HALL, Tel Aviv, photographic display includes these Biblical words from Amos 9:14 — "And I will turn the captivity of my people Israel and they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them ..."

■ What is Zionism?

Zionism is an idea that Jewish people had in their hearts and dreams for many years.

Certainly there are tangible evidences of Zionism, but calendar events are hard evidence. On the trip to Switzerland and parts of Israel, I traveled with four Jewish journalists from the United States and Canada.

Our last full day of traveling on the Herzl-Zionism trail, we met with Rami Kornblum, director of the World Zionism Organization, and chairman of the year-long Herzl observance. Sitting in his office in Jerusalem, he was cordial and helpful, explaining and fielding questions.

In answer to a query about what we should write about everyday Zionism in Israel, he replied, "Everything we do is an expression of Zionism — in the office, at home, in the schools and synagogues, traveling, in businesses and marketplaces. We are every day living and experiencing Zionism."

He added that Israel has many ways to commemorate the occasion, perhaps not on as grand a scale as Basel, Switzerland.

In effect, he was saying that Zionism is the daily lives of the people, in the freedom they have, in the vitality of a democratic nation, citizens' guaranteed rights, to own property and have free expression of religion.

■ Who was Herzl?

Kornblum paused, and in that moment I saw Theodor Herzl, a Jewish journalist from Austria, finally standing before a group of not-so-sure Jewish leaders in Basel, Switzerland, Aug. 29, 1897, perhaps asking *himself*, "What am I doing here?" In two days he would find out.

And then I asked *myself* in that blink of time, "What is a Tennessee Baptist editor doing here in Jerusalem, tracing Herzl and the birth of Zionism?"

I had but to recall some of Herzl's opening words to that first congress.

Zionism, he said, "is a civilized, law-abiding, humane movement towards the ancient good of our people."

His aim, he said, was to enable an "outcast people to act with dignity," and they were no longer to "steal into the land of their future," but they would negotiate with the Great Powers.

At that meeting, Zionism became a force which called for a Jewish revival in Palestine.

On Herzl's return to Vienna less than a week later, he wrote in his diary, summing up the meeting, "At Basel I founded the Jewish state. If I had said this out loud today, I would be answered by universal laughter. Perhaps in five years, and certainly in fifty, everyone will know it." And he added, "The foundation of a State lies in the will of a people for a State."

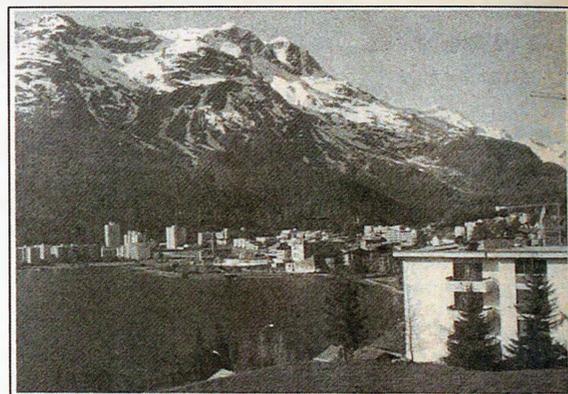


He was right in both statements. The State of Israel was founded with a declaration of freedom after the tumult and despair of World War II, in 1948, in Tel Aviv. *And everyone knew it.* The people had a will for a State.

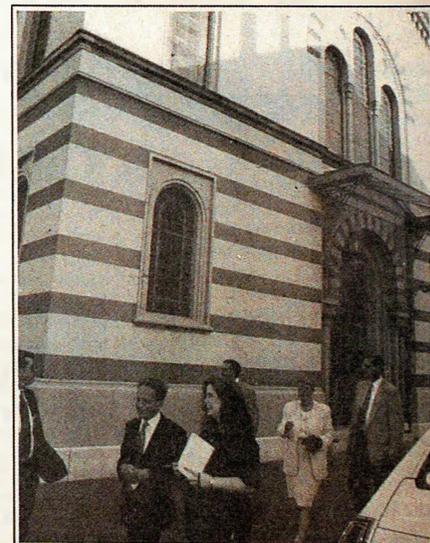
So I was following Herzl's trail, or as it were, the trail of Zionism's birth. It would carry five journalists to Zurich, St. Moritz, Basel, Hegenheim, Sulzburg, — and then to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Israel, for the next chapter.

It was an ambitious trek, but worth the while. Though the United States and Israel differ in many respects, both nations were forged in adversity, and born in difficult times. Both peoples had a will for freedom.

Christianity (and Baptists of course), crosses the path of the Old and New Testament "Holy Land." Evangelicals and Baptists in particular recog-



ST. MORITZ, a haven for ski enthusiasts, is also an attraction for summer visitors. Nearby is the country's only kosher restaurant. There is a very old protestant cathedral in the city.



BASEL SYNAGOGUE, serves the local community which also has a community council. — Photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen.



LEADERS OF Basel's Jewish community, from left: Felix Liatowitsch, president; Ursula Rhein, "foreign minister," Dennis Rhein, head of the Basel centennial, and Daniel Rothschild, vice president.

From Basel, around the world, and homeland

— From previous page

nize the Judeo Christian heritage.

And so we need to know and understand who we are and recognize that common heritage. Thousands of Baptists and other Christians travel to Israel and Europe, and some good history lessons in advance may prove helpful. So that's enough reason to track the trail of Zionism, and discover what has happened in the 100 years since the meeting in Basel.

Zionism, whether you refer to the word or the idea, has been used and misused, and sometimes twisted: some groups don't like it. Our small group of journalists was hosted by the government tourism bureaus of Switzerland and Israel, and Swissair. They provided the best of treatment, all the information, and let us tell our stories.

■ Why Basel?

Theodor Herzl and his compatriots wanted the session to be held in Germany, but there was too much opposition. Basel authorities, including Jewish leaders, offered to host the discussion on a Jewish homeland.

Herzl was obsessed with the idea, and it was appealing to many others. The first Zionist Congress was convened and the World Zionism Organization was created with Herzl as president. That program was endorsed as

the official Zionist platform, defining the goal of Zionism as the establishment of a national homeland for the Jewish people in Israel, secured by public law.

At the conclusion of the three-day meeting, it was said that, "We came with just a rag — and left with a flag. We came as hopeless rabble, and we left as a State."

The WZO continued to meet almost every year, and Basel was the host city almost a dozen times.

Herzl's prophecy was fulfilled, of course, as the independent state of Israel was declared on May 14, 1948, six months after the United Nations gave its approval.

If Herzl was obsessed with the Zionism idea, I was obsessed with the task of getting to Tennessee Baptist readers a story of valuable information, including some of the zest and feeling of the history, and translating it into some usable form. But that is where the reader's responsibility plays a part.

■ Switzerland's role

History lessons are not always easily grasped — even if they are interesting and informative. Trying to absorb a crash course on Zionism and Theodor Herzl in 10 days was like that.

Couple the crash course with my keen desire to adequately convey the message and the moment to Baptist readers — well, it gets even harder.

From Zurich, where we started, we traveled mostly by the five-star rail system. In Chur, we changed trains for our St. Moritz destination. Greenery and snow, flowers and mountains, sunshine and pleasant people graced our way. We went

back northwest to Basel after two days.

Basel sits astride the Rhine River, with France bordering the west and Germany on the east. It has always had a desirable location, favored by kings and artists, artisans and ordinary people. Zurich and Geneva are preferred by tourists, Basel is the cultural capital of the nation.

We learned that Basel has 30 museums, and it has the only Jewish museum in Switzerland.

We stayed in the same Basel hotel where Herzl stayed during his meeting — the Three Kings. When he was there it was already very old and wellknown.

Basel is modern, but the Old City is filled with narrow streets and quaint buildings, all very old. Bridges across the Rhine are important, as are the thousands of bicycles, buses, and cars.

Following our guide, we ventured to the Stadt Casino, actually a concert hall and theatre.

That's where this visit should start. The place was dark, but we pushed inside, wandered down hallways, found the area of the big meeting hall, and turned on the lights. And there we were on the

very stage where the speakers sat, and we looked across to see if there were listeners. We could imagine the discussions and the joy when the idea became reality.

A visit to the Basel Synagogue was included that afternoon. We **BASEL CATHEDRAL**, top, dates from 12th century, was first even saw the **Catholic**, but later protestant after the Reformation. The city is 2,000 years old. Above, housing styles near the main city.

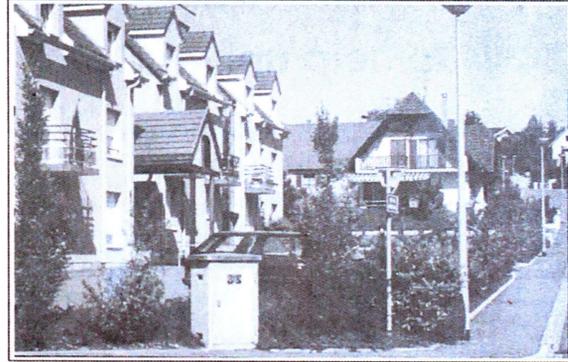
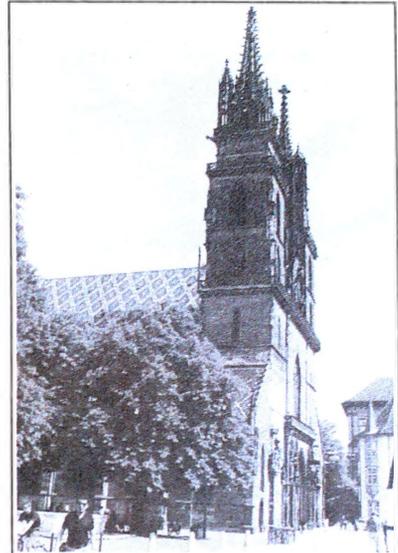
The Jewish Museum was filled with memorabilia, including many Bibles — Old Testament only, of course. My Baptist heritage harbors a keen interest in old copies of Scripture, and I was completely enthralled.

Other items of interest included many things that played a role in worship at home and in the synagogue. Photographs from the past portrayed history as well.

Dennis Rhein, genial host in Basel, is manager of the celebration events scheduled through August 27 in Basel. He explained the thorough approach taken — to include all aspects of Zionism's history, and involving interests of all ages. A symposium planned by the Theological faculty of Basel University will conclude the centennial emphasis in Basel.

The story next goes to Israel.

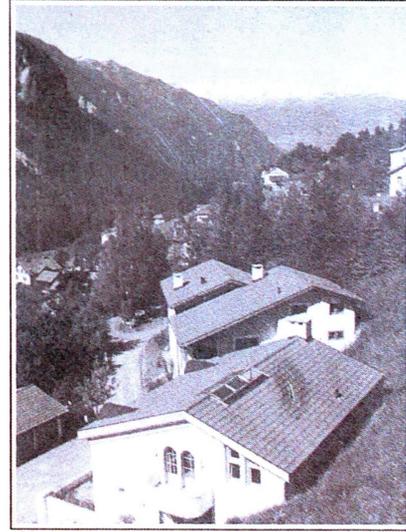
B&R



NEAR THE BASEL train station, a common mode of transportation includes bicycles. Combined with a modern and efficient electric rail system, the country travels with ease.



MEMORIAL in Hegenheim, France, lists names of local victims of World War II, especially those from the Holocaust. The memorial is adjacent to a Jewish cemetery.



SOUTHEAST from Basel, landscape changes to mountains with year-round snow and constant presence of glaciers.

Nashvillians build in Jamaica, Atoka

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Two teams of 15 men each from Tusculum Hills Church here did construction work during June. One team worked in Jamaica, in the Caribbean, and the other in Atoka, Tennessee.

The Jamaica team worked at the Jamaica Baptist Union Conference Center located on the island. The church invested about \$17,000 in the project. Bill Highsmith, director of recreation/activities/senior adults for the church, reported that the church was assigned

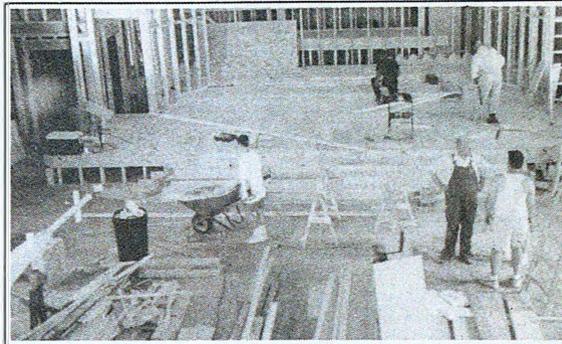
the project by the International Mission Board. Also leading the effort was Steve Ferguson, who served as construction director.

The conference center was developed in 1965 on 41 acres on the side of a mountain overlooking the ocean. It was funded with gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions. The conference cen-

ter, noted Highsmith, was well-planned and now is in the heart of the tourist area. But because of the center's age, it needed some renovation, he explained. Tennesseans added ceilings to conference rooms and dormitory rooms and remodeled a restroom/shower facility. The volunteers learned that



VOLUNTEERS from Tusculum Hills Church pause in Jamaica and include, from left, first row, Gary Duncan, Steve Qualls, Wayne Hill, and Bill Highsmith; second row, Don Bergstrom, Mike Hammond, Alan Barlett, Alton Brown, Ed Smith, and Jim Watson; back row, Jerry Pack, Gerald Richmond, Jeff Snoddy, Steve Ferguson, and Mickey Mitchell.



BUILDERS, including members of Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, work on the new auditorium of Faith Church, Atoka.

their effort would be appreciated very soon. The conference center began hosting conferees the first of July and will do so throughout most of the year, Highsmith said. It is the only conference center or encampment for members of the country's 300 Baptist churches.

The other team from Tusculum Hills Church worked in Atoka helping members of Faith Church build a new auditorium. The workers from Nashville installed insulation and sheet rock, framed, and renovated an existing hallway which will adjoin the auditorium.

To assist the volunteers, the Atoka church provided housing and food for each worker. **B&R**

Administrator transferred skills to help university

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Morris Early was administrative manager in the Nashville office of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith when he was asked to serve as a trustee of Belmont University in 1972.

He left the business world in 1985 to serve the university as vice president for administration until 1996 and as vice president of facilities, 1996-97. Early also was a member of Belmont's board of trustees for 11 years, serving the last five as chairman. He retired from his service in May.

Early has seen major campus projects completed including renovation of Freeman Hall, Barbara Massey Hall,

building of the Jack C. Massey Business Center, Lila D. Bunch Library/Leu Art Gallery, Sam Wilson Music Building, and Belmont Commons and Bruin Hills student apartments.

Early has overseen the management of Belmont's property and the acquisition of neighboring properties for expansion, working closely with the Belmont-Hillsboro Neighborhood Association to ensure good will and mutual support among campus residents and neighbors.

Early recently was elected chairman emeritus of the trustees and inducted into the school's Collegiatas.

He and his wife, Mildred, are members of First Church, Nashville. ■

Workers reunite with Japanese students

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Two teachers of the international ministry of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville, were reunited with former students in Tokyo, Japan, this summer. Dorothy Jackson

and Judy Dalton, who teach English-as-a-second-language classes, attended the reunion.

Forty-three former participants of the ministry who are current residents of Japan attended the reunion. They traveled from several Japanese cities to attend, including the northern city of Supporo.

Many Japanese residents live in Nashville for several years while they study at Vanderbilt University here.

The reunion was coordinated in Tokyo by Makito Watanabe, youth pastor, and Shingi Togami, senior pastor, Tokiwadai Baptist Church. The activities were held at the church.

Over the 13-year history of the Nashville church's ministry, 776 internationals have participated in the language, culture, and Bible instruction offered. ■



PAUSING during their visit at Tokyo Daiichi Baptist Church in Tokyo, Japan, are from left, Pastor Muranaka; a teacher for the church's kindergarten; Dorothy Jackson, Brook Hollow Church, Nashville; Sachiko Presser, Selinsgrove, Penn.; Judy Dalton, Brook Hollow Church; and Makito Watanabe, Tokiwadai Baptist Church, Tokyo.

Youth Crusade for Christ
Hosted by Mossy Grove Baptist Church
Central High School, Wartburg, Tenn.
Thurs. - Sat., Aug. 7-9, 7 p.m.
Youth Speakers: Mike Hamby, Steve Freels
Featuring - "Azariah," "Abundance," and
"John Prayor Band"
For more information, call (423) 346-6311



Employee and Helpers

A resident of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes poses with those who helped him and another resident get summer jobs. From left are Ivan Raley, TBCH, Franklin campus; Royda Powers, Toys 'R' Us company; Mike Myatt, homes resident; Todd M. Mangrum, Arrow North America company; and Dave Holman, Jobs for Tennessee Graduates, which coordinated the project.

Bethel Baptist Church

659 Shafter Rd., Greenfield

150 Years Celebration

Aug. 3-8 — Tent Revival with Evangelist Benny Jackson
Services at 7:30 each evening

Aug. 10 — Homecoming Day
Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

Lunch, 12 p.m.; Afternoon Service to follow
Come and celebrate with us!!

people

■ **Ben and Pauline Clark** of Seymour were named Outstanding Alumni of the Year for Harrison-Child



THE CLARKS

howe e Baptist Academy and The King's Academy, Seymour, recently. Pauline Clark served 28 of her 44 years as a professional educator at the school. Ben Clark served the school as a trustee. Both of the Clarks had mothers and sisters who served as teachers at the school.

■ A retirement reception for **Linda Knott**, director, Woodcock Baptist Center, Nashville, will be held Aug. 17 from 2-4 p.m. at the center.

■ **Beverly Hills Church**, Memphis, has ordained **Andy Murry** to the ministry.

leaders

■ **Tim Clark** has been called as minister of education, Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville. Clark is minister of education, Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., where he has served for 10 years. He formerly served the Knoxville church as youth minister while he was attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Clark is a graduate of the seminary and Campbellsville (Ky.) College.

■ **Ryan Hyers** has resigned as youth minister, Allons Church, Allons, effective July 27, to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ **Salem Springs Church**,

Murfreesboro, has called **Larry T. Hayes** as pastor, effective Aug. 3. He is the former pastor of Whitley Church, Nashville, and Big Rock Church, Big Rock. Hayes is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville.

■ **Nathan Lee Wilkes** has been called as interim youth minister, Everett Hills Church, Maryville.

■ **Lee Paul** has been called as pastor of Friendship Church, Delano. Paul is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

■ **William J. Conlee III**, a student at Union University, Jackson, has been called as pastor of Bethel Church, Henderson. He will be ordained by First Church, Gardendale, Ala., his home church, July 27.

■ **Bethel Crisp** has been called as interim pastor, Milligan Grove Church, Sevierville.

■ **Howard's View Church**, Sevierville, has called **Ricky Loveday** as pastor.

■ **James Huskey** has retired as pastor of Blowing Cave Church, Sevierville, after serving there 10 years.

■ **Leon Mayo** has resigned as pastor of Beech Springs Church, Kodak. He is available for supply or interim work. He can be reached at (423) 428-7661.

■ **John Goforth**, pastor, First Church, Richard City, and his wife celebrated their 50th anniversary June 29.

■ **South Madisonville Church**, Madisonville, has called **Larry Gibby** as pastor. He was interim pastor for three months and was ordained by Notchey Creek Church, Madisonville.

■ **Gary Gilliam**, pastor, Longfield Church, Lake City, has been called as pastor, Steamboat Church, Reno, Nev.

■ **Mt. Ararat Church**, Darden, has called **Bobby Greer**, a recent graduate of Union University, Jackson, as pastor.



THE LARGEST GROUP of Baptist Student Union presidents attending a recent regional leadership orientation were from Tennessee and included, from left, front row, Jeannette Grace, APSU; Ken Porter, MTSU; Kelly Murphy, DSCC; Erin Baumgardner, MTSU; Rachel McRae, UT-K; second row, Mandy Cornwall, LMU; Amy Baker, VSCC; Carey Hall, CNC; Andy Campbell, UT-M; Brad Tharpe, VU; back row, Scott Payne, ETSU; Jeremy Towry, MSCC; Malcolm Eller, ETSU; Philip Brown, UT-M; Jeff Gibson, TTU; and Ircel Harrison, TBC. Payne is collegiate ministry specialist, ETSU, and Gibson is state BSU president. The gathering was held at Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, N.C.

This is the first church Greer has served as pastor.

■ **David M. Glover**, associate minister of music and senior adults, First Church, Jefferson City, has resigned after serving there for 10 years. He will be taking a sabbatical.

■ **Shawn Fye**, youth director, Cambodian Mission of Highland Heights Church, Memphis, has resigned effective June 29. He will return to East Asia to minister through business.

■ **Pat Summey**, music director, Howard's Chapel, Vonore, recently celebrated his 50th anniversary of service there.

churches

■ **Members of Westside Church, Halls**, served in Bagojo, Mexico, in June. They led a crusade and other evangelistic efforts.

■ A team from **Macedonia Church, Ripley**, served in Pachuca, Mexico, during June, holding revivals in two churches. Also a group of youth from the church will participate in Centrifuge at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

■ A team of 40 members of **Mt. Olive Church, Knoxville**, is working at Evergreen Church, Cadillac, Mich., July 19-26 to support the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership. This is the eighth consecutive year a team has assisted a Michigan congregation and the second consecutive year a church team has worked at the Evergreen Church. The church's Carpenters for Christ framed the Michigan church's new sanctuary last year and is

renovating its education space this year. Also youth are leading Vacation Bible School, holding mini-concerts in parks, and participating in door-to-door outreach.

■ College students and singles of **Second Church, Union City**, participated in a World Changers effort in New Braunfels, Texas, in June.

■ A team from **First Church, Troy**, served at Greater Hope Church, Jackson, this summer.

■ **First Church, Middleton**, will hold homecoming activities July 27. Bill Whitlow, former interim pastor, will speak. Donnie Sipes, music director, will perform during an afternoon service.

■ **Holly Grove Church, Lascassas**, will hold revival Aug. 10-15. Jim Powers, director of missions, Concord Association, will speak. Tommy Taylor, pastor, Powell's Chapel Church, Murfreesboro, will lead the music. For more infor-



FORMER PASTORS join the current pastor during 75th anniversary events recently at Gearin's Chapel Church, Greenfield, and include, from left, Jerry Summers, Wayne Perkins, Virgil Blankenship, Clayton Ryan, John Skiles, George Smith, pastor, and Ryan Potts. Activities included the dedication of remodeled facilities. Major renovations were made to the sanctuary, educational space, and fellowship and kitchen facilities.



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mation, call the church at (615) 848-1326.

■ **Immanuel Church**, Murfreesboro, will hold revival Aug. 3-6. Harold Hunter, evangelist of Hermitage, will speak. For more information, call (615) 893-7221.

■ **Allons Church**, Allons, held revival recently which resulted in 12 people making professions of faith and a total of 56 people making spiritual decisions. Harold Hunter, evangelist of Hermitage, spoke.

■ **Little Flat Creek Church, Corryton**, the oldest continually active congregation in Knox County, will celebrate its 200th anniversary Aug. 15-17. Activities will include a praise and song service on Aug. 15, candlelight service in the church cemetery Aug. 16, and a traditional morning service on Aug. 17 followed by a luncheon. The theme of the celebration is "Yesterday, Today, and Forever," from Hebrews 13:8.

associations

■ Members of churches of **Sweetwater Association** host a booth at the flea market in Sweetwater each weekend.

■ **Nashville Association** is hosting a Children's Music Day Camp at Tusculum Hills Church, Nashville, July 21-24. A concert will be held July 24. For more information, call (615) 259-3034.



LEADING the 90th anniversary celebration of First Church, Decherd, were, from left, Baylon Hilliard, director of missions, Duck River Association; John H. Norman Jr., pastor; Micky Norman, and Nancy and Hiram Lemay of Winchester. Hiram Lemay was the guest speaker during the Homecoming Celebration.

Costa Rica missionary gets 'OJT' in Tennessee ...

— Continued from page 1

Meanwhile the Lord began to call Pinnock as a missionary. "I prayed that God would give me the opportunity to serve him in other countries, and take his Word to other people in the world who do not know him so they also could enjoy the peace and love I found in him," she said.

Pinnock prayed for nine years after she felt God calling her to be a missionary. "I know that God is faithful, and if he called me for something, he would open the door one day," she said.

Pinnock's persistence and faith paid off as she will become Costa Rica Baptists' first foreign missionary later this year. She is both excited and apprehensive about that honor. "I'm excited about being the

first missionary (from Costa Rica), but I also feel a great responsibility." She hopes that her experiences will open opportunities for others who feel God's call to missions service.

The experience she has gained working with Tennessee GA camps this summer will be helpful on the mission field, she affirmed.

"It's been a great experience and I've learned a lot," Pinnock said, noting that "the Lord opened the door for me to come to Tennessee." Last year she met Katharine Bryan, retired Tennessee WMU executive director, and Carol Richardson, Tennessee WMU president while they were in Costa Rica.

The Tennessee WMU leaders told her they thought it would be good for her to work in the state this summer to

share about Costa Rica since Tennessee Baptists have entered into partnership with that country, Pinnock related.

Pinnock said her experiences at GA camps this summer have given her insight on new ways to do things in a camp setting.

Most of all, working in a different culture this summer will benefit her on the mission field, Pinnock affirmed.

"I've learned to just be yourself. In a new country and different culture, you need to be yourself. If you be yourself and let God use you the way he wants to, it will be okay," she affirmed.

Pinnock has done well during her "foreign missions" stint in Tennessee, related Vickie Anderson who coordinates the GA camps for Tennessee



GA CAMP staff members have become Anne Marie Pinnock's new friends this summer. From left, kneeling, are Casey Vance, Jackson; Traci Roberson; Fort Worth, Texas; standing, Joy Lambert, Murfreesboro; Jessica Grooms, Morristown; Pinnock; Vanessa Roulette, Maryville; and Melody Maxwell, Collierville.

Woman's Missionary Union.

"It's been a different experience for us to have someone from a different country on our

staff. Anne Marie has shared first-hand knowledge about Costa Rica and the girls have responded well to her." ■

Englewood commits to keeping a solid future for young people

For Baptist and Reflector

EDITOR'S NOTE — The accompanying story is the third in a series which will run in the Baptist and Reflector in support of the Tennessee Baptist Scholarship Endowment Campaign.

JACKSON — "When I look at the future, I'm real optimistic," said Ryan Massey, a Union University sophomore. "I've got something that I couldn't get anywhere else."

As the 21st century nears, young adults across the nation are asking questions about jobs, families, finances, and their future, in general. They're wondering if they'll have what it takes to succeed and to be the Christ-like witnesses to which they are called.

"I want to coach basketball on the college level," Massey said. He walked on to the Union University basketball court last fall as a freshman point guard. Unlike many college athletes, Massey isn't getting a "full ride" to play sports. In fact, he's not receiving a basketball scholarship at all. He's just playing for the Bulldogs because of his love

for the game and his passion to learn and be excellent.

"I've really improved since I got here," Massey said. "I've grown physically, mentally, and spiritually. And I know that's going to keep happening because I'm at Union."

Englewood Church, Jackson, is helping make it possible for Massey to fulfill his passion for learning the skills necessary to be an excellent basketball coach and a powerful Christian witness.

Englewood is making a commitment to insure a solid future for many young people by reaffirming its link with Union and its support of Christian higher education.

"We realize that today's students will be tomorrow's community and church leaders," said Phil Jett, pastor of Englewood. "And those leaders need a quality education that is academically strong and will encourage and nurture their

Christian faith."

This year, Englewood members voted to contribute \$250,000 to the Church Scholarship Endowment Fund. "We recognize that Christian higher education costs substantially more than secular schools," Jett said. "However, we want to make such an education as affordable as possible."

Englewood began the commitment by helping their students attend Union in 1987 with a \$150,000 commitment to the first Church Scholarship Endowment Campaign. Union, in turn, matched their gift, with \$75,000. And now, 10 years later, 80 students from Englewood have received about \$143,000 in financial assistance. "Next year, we'll surpass the amount that we actually put in," Jett said.

"Without the scholarship from Englewood, there would be a lot more pressure on my fami-



endowment campaign

ly," Massey said.

In January of this year, Union joined Belmont University and Carson-Newman College to kick off the second state-wide financial campaign authorized by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The TBC encouraged its three higher education institutions to enter into a church-based campaign during 1997-99, with a \$10 million goal in endowment support for each school. Jett and Union alumnus Ken Story, retired pastor of Germantown Church, Germantown, are co-chairmen of Union's campaign.

Paul Veazey, Union's church campaign coordinator, said Union's goal is to expand the endowed scholarship fund. For churches which establish or add to such funds, Union will provide matching funds to increase their values at a ratio of 2:1. For example, Union will match Englewood's \$250,000 commit-

ment with \$125,000 to benefit students who are members of the church and who attend Union.

In the first six months of the new campaign, Union has received \$710,138.74 in pledges from 13 churches.

"The scholarships made possible by West Tennessee churches help Union, but they also help the individual churches and young people from their congregations," said Union President David S. Dockery.

For more information about starting or adding to a church scholarship endowment fund at Union, contact Veazey at (901) 661-5217.

For more information about endowment programs at the other Tennessee Baptist-related schools, call Fred Kendall at Belmont at (615) 460-6435 or the church relations office at Carson-Newman at (423) 471-3245. ■

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Protection

By Aubrey Hay

Focal: Psalm 91

This is a poem of security. In beautiful and poetic language, it pictures the assurance the believer finds in God. It may have been a hymn of praise sung responsively, as the worship leader led in reciting or singing verses 1-2, and the congregation responding with verses 3-13. The third section is a closing summation given by the worship leader as a message of trust to the congregation. It is full of graphic analogies and pictures, both of the perils of life and the deliverance of God.

The protection (vv. 1-2). "... the Lord, my refuge and fortress ..." This is the song of the believer even as it reminds them and us that protection from God is contingent on "dwelling in the shadow of the Most High." This can be seen as both the expression of the life of faith and the protective care of God. The thought is one of closeness to God as an act of faith of the believer, and the responding action of God. In this man expresses his faith. He is the one who says to the Lord, "my refuge and my fortress; my God in whom I trust."

The peril (vv. 3-13). Listed throughout these verses are the perils with which the psalmist deals, and the responding care of the Almighty. The language is poetic with the actual events not always defined. His descriptions are comprehensive, however, covering a wide span of life's problems. There is the "snare of the fowler," the bird catcher's net, or those things that come unexpectedly. Some of these may be things done to us by others, the snare they place in our way. Deadly pestilence probably refers to unexpected illness. The meaning of "night terrors" and "arrows that fly by day" reveal that God's care is continuous. The all-seeing eye of God follows the believer night or day.

The promise (vv. 14-16). "I will protect him because he knows my name." This is the statement of God about the believer. There is always a "because" in the relationship the person of faith has with God. God acts on our behalf "because" of our response to him. The Lord acknowledges the trust expressed by the person of faith. God's blessings are always contingent on our expressions of trust. We are now at an essential, and often neglected, aspect of our faith. For the trust the psalmist describes is different than what is often expressed. The trust of this passage is strong enough to alter man's behavior. It is the biblical demand that faith impact our lives to the point of changing our lives. It will change our attitudes. It will change our spirits. It will change our understanding of what the fruits of trust really are. His protective care does not mean that we are exempted from the problems of life. It does assure us of his presence in all we have to face. Because this is true, the promise of God is reiterated. "I will be with him in trouble, I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation."

The peace. Although peace is not mentioned in this passage, peace is the result of the life of faith. Peace with self, with others and with God are the marks of a believers life. It is the by-product of trust. In the words of Isaiah, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee."

God does not place a protective bubble over the believer's life, but the relationship with him allows us to have the strength to be at peace with whatever comes. — Hay is Church-Ministers Relations Specialist, TBC Executive Board.

The perfect sacrifice

By Lonnie Wilkey

Focal: Hebrews 10: 1-14

It is likely that all of us at one time or another have either made a sacrifice for someone we love or have been the beneficiaries of someone else's sacrifice.

Probably, when we have been the beneficiary we didn't realize at the time what a sacrifice it was for the individual who made it, whether it be a spouse, parent, or other loved one. Looking back over the years I see now how my mother and grandparents did without things in order for me to have something. At the time it never occurred to me that they were doing without in order that I could have whatever it was.

As a parent, I understand better their thoughts and motives. My needs and wants take a back seat to what's best for my wife and children, just as their needs and wants took a back seat to mine.

God did not want to send Jesus Christ, his only Son, into the world but he knew Jesus would eventually give his life for our sins. God provided the supreme gift, the perfect sacrifice.

Family Bible Lesson

Without a doubt God made the perfect sacrifice when he sent his only Son into the world to die for our sin. Jesus sacrificed his life — the only sacrifice that can take away sins.

In the Old and New Testament sacrifices were a way of life for the Jewish people. The animal sacrifices they made expressed the stark reality that sin's penalty is death. In order for that penalty to be avoided, a sacrifice was needed to atone for the sins.

In verse 1 we find the Israelites celebrated the Day of Atonement each year. This is very significant. The fact they had to make the sacrifices on a yearly basis indicate their inability to obtain a cleansed and changed life.

Often in the life of Israel, the reasons for the sacrifice were lost in the routine of the rituals.

Are we guilty of that today as Christians? When we witness a baptism, do we really think about the life that has just been changed, or when we observe the Lord's Supper, do we truly realize significance of what that grape juice and cracker symbolizes?

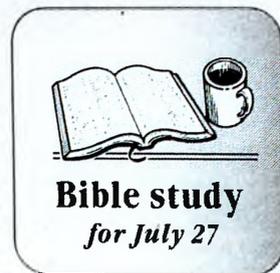
We need to constantly remind ourselves that our ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are just outward symbols of God's grace.

The sacrifice of animals in no way can be compared to the sacrifice Christ made. The animals were ignorant of the meaning of their blood being shed. Jesus willingly and with full understanding submitted himself to the executioners.

When the Book of Hebrews was written, probably around A.D. 64-68, the days of the Old Testament system of sacrifices were numbered. In A.D. 70 Romans under Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. At that point the sacrifices ceased at once because only on the brazen altar could priests perform the sacrifices. God took away the first sacrificial system, but established the second one by sending Christ who carried out God's will, fulfilling God's ultimate plan for providing salvation to all who would receive it.

Christ atoned for our sins when he died on Calvary's cross. Verse 4 reminds us that the blood of bulls and goats could not take away our sins. God accepted the blood of Christ as the way for us to gain access to God. Verse 11 is another reminder that the only way our sins can be forgiven is to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The priests ministered day by day, each year, but the sacrifices they offered could not take away people's sin.

Centuries of sacrifices could not accomplish what Jesus did on the cross. The final application of Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection is achieved when sinners confess and receive salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. — Wilkey is associate editor, *Baptist and Reflector*.



Expressing love in all we do

By Jerry Chapman

Explore the Bible Lesson

Focal: I Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

No matter what we do in life Christ calls us to express love. Chapter 13 is called the "love chapter" of Corinthians. Paul inserted it like a refreshing river flowing between the two mountains of chapters 12 and 14. The Corinthian Christians were very proud of their spiritual gifts and yet their selfishness caused much division in the church. Paul's words are guiding lights in the darkness of pride. He wanted the believers to use their gifts to build up the body not cause problems. Paul informed them of the necessity of love in all that they did.

Love's Expression (12:31b-13:3)

It seems as if tongue speaking in any segment of history has caused problems. The Corinthian believers thought this was the most important spiritual gift. Paul listed various categories of gifts: (1) the ecstatic (v. 1), (2) the teaching or proclamation (v. 2), (3) those producing wonders (v. 2), and (4) the helping or administrative (v. 3) gifts. But Paul proposed a "more excellent way." Love

has to manifest itself in the inner man before it can generate action. Being comes before doing.

Love's Characteristics (13:4-7)

Paul used positive and negative words to describe love in action. In other words he used the negative to say what love was not. All of these words: patient, kind, seeking the best, not self-centered, not arrogant, honorable and descent behavior, not touchy or irritable, doesn't keep score, rejoices in righteousness, endures, trusts, hopes, and perseveres describes love's nature.

When a believer is possessed with love there is a change which is above and beyond any change man could ever make on his own. This word for love designates love based on the will of the one loving and not on anything they might do.

Love's Challenges (13:8-12)

Paul indicates that love is permanent. Even though the gifts of prophecy, tongues and knowledge or any Spiritual gift for that matter

are important they will cease. Love is forever. It is victorious and complete. Paul indicates that love matures us.

We don't have to act like children. We may see ourselves as God's children, but with an indistinct image. One day we will see "face to face" and love will remain ... for eternity. The challenge is to be ready with love controlling us.

Love's Call (13:13)

One day Spiritual gifts will cease. They will be no more. The ability to "do" something will be absorbed by "faith, hope, and love." Faith is trust. Hope is faith directed to the future. And love is the source of faith and hope forever. Love is God working in and through an individual to witness of His love. Love calls us to love like God loves.

It is imperative the world know God and His great love for all peoples. The Church is where God's love is planted, nurtured, and matured. The world is looking at believers today to show His love. Has this great truth permeated your world, your church, your life? — Chapman is Discipleship Coordinator, TBC Executive Board.



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Aug. 17 is Baptist and Reflector Day
Issue will contain special pullout on state missions

Baptist and Reflector Day, observed this year on Aug. 17, will provide a special bonus — an eight-page insert provided by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union focusing on the Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Golden State Missions Offering.

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